

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1-16 (Canceled).

Claim 17 (Previously Presented): A method of producing a carbon nanotube dispersed composite material comprising the following three processes:

- a) a mixing process of kneading and dispersing (i) a ceramics powder or a metal (including its alloy) powder or a mixture of both said powders and (ii) long-chain carbon nanotubes in an amount of 10 wt% or less;
- b) a knead-dispersed material heat treatment process of heating the knead-dispersed material obtained by said mixing process by discharge plasma without sintering by allowing pulse current to flow while clamping the knead-dispersed material between punches in a die with a pressure of 10 MPa or less; and
- c) a sintering process of sintering the knead-dispersed material which have been subjected to said heat treatment by discharge plasma by allowing pulse current to flow while pressing the knead-dispersed material between the punches in the die.

Claim 18 (Previously Presented): A method of producing a carbon nanotube dispersed composite material comprising the following four processes:

- a) a carbon nanotube heat treatment process of heating carbon nanotubes by discharge plasma by allowing pulse current to flow while clamping the carbon nanotubes between punches in a die with a pressure of 10 MPa or less;
- b) a mixing process of kneading and dispersing (i) a ceramics powder or a metal (including its alloy) powder or a mixture of both said powders and (ii) long-chain carbon

nanotubes in an amount of 10 wt% or less, the long-chain carbon nanotubes having been subjected to said heat treatment;

- c) a knead-dispersed material heat treatment process of heating the knead-dispersed material obtained by said mixing process by discharge plasma without sintering by allowing pulse current to flow while clamping the knead-dispersed material between the punches in the die with a pressure of 10 MPa or less; and
- d) a sintering process of sintering the knead-dispersed material which has been subjected to said heat treatment by discharge plasma by allowing pulse current to flow while pressing the knead-dispersed material between the punches in the die.

Claims 19-24 (Canceled).

Claim 25 (Previously Presented): The method according to Claim 17, wherein the ceramics powder has an average particle size of 10 μm or less and the metal powder has an average particle size of 200 μm or less.

Claim 26 (Previously Presented): The method according to Claim 18, wherein the ceramics powder has an average particle size of 10 μm or less and the metal powder has an average particle size of 200 μm or less.

Claim 27-32 (Cancelled)

Claim 33 (Previously Presented): The method according to Claim 17, wherein the ceramics powder is composed of one or more of alumina, zirconia, aluminum nitride, and silicon carbide.

Claim 34 (Previously Presented): The method according to Claim 18, wherein the ceramics powder is composed of one or more of alumina, zirconia, aluminum nitride, and silicon carbide.

Claim 35-40 (Cancelled)

Claim 41 (Previously Presented): The method according to Claim 17, wherein the metal powder is composed of one or more of pure aluminum, aluminum alloy, titanium, titanium alloy, copper, copper alloy, and stainless steel.

Claim 42 (Previously Presented): The method according to Claim 18, wherein the metal powder is composed of one or more of pure aluminum, aluminum alloy, titanium, titanium alloy, copper, copper alloy, and stainless steel.

Claim 43-44 (Cancelled)